Name of the State	1998-99
Tripura	578.80
Uttar Pradesh	30176.52
West Bengal	10639.62
A & N Islands	44.40
D & N Haveli	43.80
Daman & Diu	1.82
Lakshadweep	3.65
Pondicherry	56.57
TOTAL	148400.00

Pending Rural Development Project of North-Eastern Region

908. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rural development projects pertaining to North-Eastern Region and lying pending with Central Government for their approval;

(b) if so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these are likely to be approved/cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) No Rural Development Projects are lying pending in the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment pertaining to North-Eastern Region. However, under the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme forty Projects were received which have not been sanctioned due to non-receipt of clarifications from the State Governments.

Implementation of 73rd Constitution Amendment Act

909. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States are not implementing the provisions of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to implement it in a proper way from the grassroot democratic functionary; and

(c) whether Government have a time bound programme to implement the same in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act is that of the State Governments. The Government is however monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, especially the mandatory provisions, through review meetings at State Ministerial and Secretary level. The Government has also set up a Task Force to Study the Structure & Functioning of Panchayats. The Government has urged the State Governments of Assam, Karnataka and Pondicherry to comply with the Constitutional provisions regarding conduct of Panchayat elections and has also intimated them that it will not be possible to continue to transfer funds under rural development programmes meant for Panchayats to States where Panchayats are not in position.

Additional grants to Orissa

910. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: the details of additional grants other than the usual, proposed to be released to Orissa Government in the Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) for K.B.K. in various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): In order to ensure a certain level of funding to K.B.K. districts various steps have been taken in the

current year including doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and provisions of an additionality of Rs. 37 crore for KBK districts in the Annual Plan of Orissa for 1998-99. Further, from the Additional Central Assistance available for Basic Minimum Services an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been earmarked for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units in these districts.

World Bank's remark regarding Poverty alleviation

911. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has concluded that anti-poverty Programmes have not been cost effective in reducing Poverty; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) In the Report "Options for more effective public services to reduce poverty" dated May 28, 1999 the World Bank has observed: "Anti poverty programs that either do not reach the poor or that bestow a disproportionate share of their benefits on the non-poor are programs in urgent need of reform. The majority of India's safety-net initiatives are misusing scarce financial resources that could be best invested to increase the poor's access to health and education services that have been shown to equip the poor to help themselves".

The Govt. of India has a comprehensive anti-poverty programme funded largely through domestic resources but also comprising a component of external assitance that seeks to address the felt needs of the sections of population below poverty line. The externally assisted projects are prepared and appraised by the World Bank itself as being consistent with the overall objectives of addressing the pressing areas of concern in poverty reduction.

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Survey regarding availability of water

912. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to make available water by digging deep wells in various parts of Gujarat, particularly in the Rann of Kutch;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the outcome; and

(c) the details of future plans of Government to provide sufficient water to convert the desert area in greenery and also for irrigation purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The long-term observations of Ground Water levels in Gujarat have been made by the Central Ground Water Board. They have shown a decline of water levels upto 10.61 meters in shallow aquifers and upto 50.37 meters in deeper aquirfers in the State. The District-wise details of decline of Ground Water level in Gujarat are indicated in the Statement (*See* below)